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EXAMINER

HAMILTON, MONPLAISIR G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/973,349

Applicant(s)

PRATT, DOUGLAS CHARLES

Examiner

Monplaisir G Hamilton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-20 are pending.

***Priority***

- ~~2.~~ Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/09/01 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 10 recites the limitation "said rules" on page 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner has interpreted said rule to be instructions for processing a query.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6418441 issued to Call, herein referred to as Call.

Referring to Claim 1:

Call discloses a method for determining a specific identifier code for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object (col 2, lines 40-45);

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (col 2, lines 40-50; col 9, lines 35-50);

generating a second message incorporating said extracted first identifier code, second message being for initiating a search of an identifier code database mapping an identifier code associated with a first entity to a corresponding identifier code associated with a second entity (col 4, lines 20-35; col 8, lines 40-65; col 9, lines 35-50);

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receiving a second identifier code corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said second message for initiating a search of said identifier code database (col 2, lines 40-50; col 8, lines 40-65; col 32, lines 25-40).

Referring to Claim 2:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Call further discloses said second message initiates a remote procedure for mapping said first identifier code to a corresponding second identifier code (col 5, line 60-col 6, line 10).

Referring to Claim 4:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Call further discloses communicating said second message to an application useable for initiating a search of said identifier code database (col 2, lines 40-50; col 8, lines 40-50).

Referring to Claim 7:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Call further discloses said extracting step comprises extracting said first identifier code and a corresponding third identifier code from said received first message, and said generating step generates a second message incorporating said extracted first and third identifier codes (col 15, lines 20-40; col 16, lines 10-25; col 17, lines 1-10).

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Referring to Claim 10:

Call discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1 above. Call further discloses method according to claim 1, wherein said rules are predetermined in an application used for accessing said database (col 17, lines 15-35).

Referring to Claim 12:

Call discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1 above. Call further discloses an identifier code mapping application (col 4, lines 20-35) and said identifier code mapping application and said database are co-located on the same processor (col 4, lines 25-40), said processor comprising one, of (a) a server, (b) a PC (c) a wireless device, (d) a mainframe computer and (e) another networked processing device (col 5, lines 45-60; Fig. 1; col 15, lines 35-55).

Referring to Claim 13:

Call discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1 above. Call further discloses at least one of said first and said second identifier codes comprise one of (a) a Universal Product Code and (b) a code associated with a bar code (col 2, lines 1-10; col 4, lines 35-60).

Referring to Claim 14:

Call discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1 above. Call further discloses a method for supporting a transaction in accordance with claim 1, wherein

said first message is received from an application initiating a transaction and including the steps of (col 14, lines 20-30);

forwarding a composite message to a destination application in support of said transaction, said composite message being created including information derived from said first message and including said second identifier code (col 14, lines 20-65).

Referring to Claim 15:

Call discloses a method for determining a specific identifier code for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object (col 2, lines 40-45):

extracting, said first identifier code from said received first message (col 2, lines 40-50; col 9, lines 35-50):

generating a second message incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said second message being for initiating a search of a remote identifier code database mapping an identifier code associated with a first entity to a corresponding identifier code associated with a second entity (col 4, lines 20-35; col 8, lines 40-65; col 9, lines 35-50);

receiving a second identifier code corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said second message for initiating a search of said identifier code database (col 2, lines 40-50; col 8, lines 40-65; col 32, lines 25-40).

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Referring to Claim 16:

Call discloses a method for determining a specific identifier code for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object (col 2, lines 40-45);

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (col 2, lines 40-50; col 9, lines 35-50);

generating a plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating searches of a corresponding plurality of remote identifier code databases mapping an identifier code associated with a first entity to a corresponding identifier code associated with a second entity (col 4, lines 20-35; col 8, lines 40-65; col 9, lines 35-50; col 5, lines 45-60);

receiving a second identifier code corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said second message for initiating a search of said identifier code database (col 2, lines 40-50; col 8, lines 40-65; col 32, lines 25-40).

Referring to Claim 17:

Call discloses a method for providing a specific identifier code for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:



receiving from a remote source a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object requesting determination of a specific identifier code for said object (col 2, lines 40-45);

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (col 2, lines 40-50; col 9, lines 35-50);

initiating a search of an identifier code database mapping an identifier code associated with a first entity to a corresponding identifier code associated with a second entity using said extracted first identifier code (col 4, lines 20-35; col 8, lines 40-65; col 9, lines 35-50);

receiving a second identifier code corresponding to said first identifier code in response to said initiated search of said identifier code database (col 2, lines 40-50; col 8, lines 40-65; col 32, lines 25-40); and

providing said second identifier code to said remote source (col 8, lines 45-50).

Referring to Claim 18:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 17 above. Call further discloses generating a record of said search and provision of said second identifier code for use in at least one of (a) billing, and (b) creating a transaction record (col 14, lines 20-35; Fig. 7; col 31, lines 3-35).

Referring to Claim 19:

Call discloses a system for providing a specific identifier code for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes, comprising:

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a communication processor for bi-directionally communicating with remote applications (Fig. 1; col 4, lines 1-15);

an identifier code database (col 4, lines 35-45);

a first application for,

initiating a search of said database to translate a first identifier code associated with a first entity to a corresponding identifier code associated with a second entity-in-response to-receiving

a message including a plurality of corresponding identifier codes associated with an object (col 4, lines 20-35; col 8, lines 40-65; col 9, lines 35-50; col 8, lines 60-67), and for

augmenting said database by updating said database to incorporate additional corresponding codes from said received plurality of corresponding identifier codes (col 5, line 60-col 6, line 40); and

providing a second identifier code corresponding to said first identifier code in response to said initiated search of said identifier code database via said communication processor (col 2, lines 40-50; col 8, lines 40-65; col 32, lines 25-40).

Referring to Claim 20:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 19 above. Call further discloses an object comprises at least one of, (a) an article of manufacture, (b) a service and (c) a non-manufactured item and an entity comprises at least one of, (a) an object retailer, (b) an object wholesaler, (c) an object distributor, (d) an object manufacturer, (e) an object servicing enterprise and (f) an object seller (col 4, lines 35-45; col 9, lines 35-50).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6418441 issued to Call, herein referred to as Call in view of US 20020161745 issued to Call, herein referred to as Gainor.

Referring to Claim 3:

Call discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 2 above.

Call does not explicitly disclose "said second message uses Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) for invoking said remote procedure".

Gainor discloses said second message uses Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) for invoking said remote procedure (paragraph 0206-0226).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Call such that the second message uses SOAP. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would allow the system to request product information (paragraph 0226).

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Referring to Claim 11:

Call discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1 above.

Call does not explicitly disclose “communicating said second message to an application for accessing said database using at least two of, (a) Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), (b) Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and (c) XML (Extensible Markup language)”

Gainor disclose communicating said second message to an application for accessing said database using at least two of, (a) Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), (b) Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and (c) XML (Extensible Markup language) (paragraph 0206-0226 ).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Call such that the second message uses XML and SOAP. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would allow the system to request product information (paragraph 0226).

6. Claims 5-6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6418441 issued to Call, herein referred to as Call in view of US 6055516 issued to Johnson et al, herein referred to as Johnson.

Referring to Claim 5:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above.

Call does not explicitly discloses “said second message initiates a prioritized search of said database.”

Johnson discloses said second message initiates a prioritized search of said database (col 6, lines 5-25).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Call such that a search priority is included with the request. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would allow the system to prioritize multiple parameters that are passed to the query handler (Call: col 8, lines 40-65) (Johnson: col 5, lines 20-30).

Referring to Claim 6:

Call in view of Johnson discloses the limitations of Claim 5 above. Johnson further discloses said prioritized search of said database searches first for a purchaser product identifier code and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code (col 6, lines 19-25).

Referring to Claim 8:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 7 above.

Call does not explicitly disclose "said first identifier code comprises a purchaser product identifier code and said third identifier code comprises a manufacturer product identifier code and said second message initiates a prioritized search of said database involving searching first for said purchaser product identifier code and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code."

Johnson discloses said first identifier code comprises a purchaser product identifier code and said third identifier code comprises a manufacturer product identifier code and said second

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message initiates a prioritized search of said database involving searching first for said purchaser product identifier code and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code (col 6, lines 5-25).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Call such that a search priority is included with the request. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would allow the system to prioritize multiple parameters that are passed to the query handler (Call: col 8, lines 40-65) (Johnson: col 5, lines 20-30).

Referring to Claim 9:

Call discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above.

Call does not explicitly disclose "said second message incorporates rules determining conduct of said search of said identifier code database".

Johnson discloses said second message incorporates rules determining conduct of said search of said identifier code database (col 6, lines 20-30).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Call such that the second message includes rules for conducting the search. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would allow the system to prioritize search criteria (col 6, lines 20-25).

***Prior Art***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 20010029492 issued to Uchikata, Tatsuya. Uchikata discloses a first identifier is assigned to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal and is sent back to the buyer's terminal. A second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information are sent to a vendor's terminal. An instruction indicating that goods to be sold in the transaction, to which the second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store is sent to the buyer's terminal. Upon receiving the first identifier and the second identifier, a check is made to see if there is a correspondence between them. If there is a correspondence, an instruction is output to allow the delivered goods be passed to the buyer.

US 6542933 issued to Durst, Jr., Robert T. et al. Durst discloses the present invention operates by inputting into the client computer a linkage code (a machine readable code such as a bar code symbol or a human-readable alphanumeric text string) that includes a server identification code and an item identification code. The client computer then extracts the server identification code, and obtains from local cache or from the routing server a URL template associated with the server identification code. The URL template includes the name of an information server and at least one parameter field to be completed by the client computer. The URL template is completed by the client computer by filling in at least the item identification code, and the completed URL template is then sent to the information server named therein as a primary content URL request.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monplaisir G Hamilton whose telephone number is 1703-305-5116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 1-703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 1703-305-3900.

Monplaisir Hamilton

  
JEAN M. CORRIELUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER